

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AID-05 AF-06 NEA-10 /104 W

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R 191100Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4948

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2982

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES PORTUGUESE SITUATION

1. WHILE CALLING ON PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE JUNE 19 FOR OFFICIAL VISITS TO MEXICO, VENEZUELA AND CUBA (SEPTEL), I ASKED HIM FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT PORTUGESE SCENE. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD THAT ONE OF HIS AIDES, PIERRE SCHORI, HAD RETURNED ONLY THIS WEEK FROM A VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY AND MIGHT HAVE SOME NEW INSIGHT INTO THE SITUATION THERE.

2. PALME REPLIED THAT SCHORI HAD REPORTED BACK THAT SOCIALIST (PS) LEADER SOARES IS IN CONSIDERABLY BETTER PHYSICAL CONDITION THAN HE WAS SOME MONTHS AGO WHEN SCHORI WAS LAST IN PORTUGAL. HE SAID SOARES APPEARED MORE RELAXED SINCE GIVING UP THE FOREIGN

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MINISTER PORTFOLIO, AND HAD LOST ABOUT 20 POUNDS.

PALME SAID THAT IN HIS OWN VIEW, SOARES IS TOO PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PORTUGUESE SCENE; HE (PALME) FEELS THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE SOCIALISTS CAN REASSERT THEMSELVES IN PORTUGUESE POLITICAL LIFE, AND HE NOTED THAT MEMBERSHIP IN THE PS CONTINUES TO GROW FESPITE THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SCHORI HAD DESCRIBED THE AFM AS COMPOSED OF OFFICERS WHOSE VIEWS WERE STRONGLY COLORED BY THEIR OWN LIMITED EXPERIENCE WHILE SERVING IN AFRICA, AND NOT A FEW WERE RESERVISTS. THEY DID NOT, ACCORDING TO SCHORI, BELONG TO THE PROFESSIONAL ARMY CLASS. THEY VIEWED THEMSELVES AS LEADERS OF AN AFRICAN-TYPE LIBERATION MOVEMENT. PALME ADDED HIS OWN VIEW THAT THEY WERE FOLLOWERS OF THE TECHINGS OF "MY OLD FRIEND" CABRAL, RATHER THAN OF MARXIST-LENINIST DOCTRINE.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE IS PLEASED WITH THE POSITION OF THE USG AND THE EC-9 TOWARDS THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. OUR ATTITUDE OF "WATCHFUL WAITING," HE SAID, IS ALSO THE SWEDISH APPROACH. PALME SAID HE IS WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY IN PORTUGAL. HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, HE FELT LESS WORRIED SINCE HIS TALK WITH THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE POLISH COMMUNIST PARTY, EDWARD GIerek, WHO VISITED SWEDEN EARLY THIS MONTH (STOCKHOLM 2789). ACCORDING TO PALME, HE AND GIerek DISCUSSED PORTUGAL AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH. HE SAID GIerek TOLD HIM THAT THE SOVIETS AND OTHER EAST EUROPEANS DO NOT RPT NOT WISH TO "PRECIPITATE EVENTS" IN PORTUGAL, AND THAT WHILE PORTUGAL IS READY FOR A "BOURGOIS" REVOLUTION, IT IS NOT READY YET FOR A "PROLETARIAN" ONE. GIerek DESCRIBED CUNHAL AS "REASONABLE," BUT ASSERTED THAT SOME OF THE MEN AROUND HIM "HAD BEEN TOO LONG IN JAIL," IMPLYING THAT THEIR TIME IN PRISON HAD MAKE THEM TOO HARD-LINE.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION, SOME 60 YOUNG SOCIALISTS HAD VOLUNTEERED TO GO TO PORTUGAL TO HELP THE PS ORGANIZE. PALME EXPRESSED SATISFACTION  
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AT THIS DEVELOPMENT, SINCE HE CONSIDERS THAT ASSISTANCE TO PARTY ORGANIZATION IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY FELLOW SOCIALIST COUNTRIES CAN AID THE PS.

5. PALME MENTIONED ONE BILATERAL PROBLEM WITH PORTUGAL. THE GOS, HE SAID, IS TAKING OVER THE ERIKSBERG SHIPYARDS IN GOTHENBERG, WHICH HAS BEEN IN DIFFICULT STRAITS DUE TO THE SLUMP IN THE SHIP

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. HOWEVER, ERIKSBERG HAS AN AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE, OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, 45,000 TONS OF STEEL SHIP COMPONENTS FROM THE PORTUGUESE COMPANY LISNAVE. PALME SAID THE GOS CANNOT TAKE OVER THE COMPANY WITH THIS "IMPOSSIBLE CONTRACT" STILL OUTSTANDING, AND ERIKSBERG IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO HAVE THE CONTRACT RENEGOTIATED, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE A SUBSTANTIAL SCALING-DOWN OF THE ORDER.

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